

AUSTRALIAN SAUCER RECORD

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE A.F.S.R.S. — PRICE 2/-

EDITORIAL

FLYING SAUCERS AND SCIENCE FICTION

Two interesting phenomena peculiar to the twentieth century are the appearance of flying saucers in the skies all over the world, and the remarkable growth in the popularity of science fiction.

It may be said that Jules Verne and H. G. Wells were the founders of modern science fiction; though their techniques were very different from that of the modern writer, the lineage of the current science fiction can be traced back to the works of these pioneers. The early stories were mainly straightforward developments of a theme based on some concrete scientific discovery or invention. Where these used the logical development of existing knowledge, plus a little shrewd guess-work, the writers in many cases anticipated actual progress. Nearly all our modern scientific developments were predicted in science fiction—the submarine, the tank, radio, television, the atom bomb, the artificial satellite, and the space rocket.

It was natural that the early writers, having used the more obvious possibilities of earthly scenes, should have turned to Space for a background. The Moon, being nearest, was long ago visited by space heroes: Jules Verne used a passenger-carrying projectile, shot from a gigantic gun; Wells invented an anti-gravity substance. It is significant that Wells's heroes reached the Moon—Verne's did not.

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LIFE ON MARS

Space travel in most of the modern science fiction is based on some form of the rocket. After 1945 the idea of an atomic drive became fashionable, but the basic principle remained. The rocket theme has been developed by some writers almost in blue-print detail. For instance, the excellence and accuracy of the technical detail in the film "Destination Moon" is worth the highest praise.

But it is perhaps this very wealth of available detail which has led to an obsession with rockets to the exclusion of other forms of vehicle; hence the space ship of science fiction is usually depicted as a projectile with clean aerodynamic lines. All our present or projected methods of propulsion for aircraft and space ships are based on brute force, in that they use power to overcome natural forces. Some science fiction writers have hinted at other forms of propulsion—anti-gravity devices, gravity shields, force fields, and other less specific systems. Here they show an understandable reluctance to go too closely into details. Even control by the power of the mind has been suggested; likewise beings who exist normally on a different plane from ours, so that they can appear and disappear at will by moving from one plane to another—as some saucerians are claimed to have done.

Why has science fiction attained such an astonishing world-wide popularity in recent years, its growth paralleling closely the upward curve of saucer sightings? May we not suppose that its purpose is to prepare the minds of Earth citizens for the visitation of beings from other worlds?

DR. ALBERT EINSTEIN

The world has lost one of the greatest mathematicians who ever lived. Albert Einstein was unique, a man who worked with mathematical concepts which mere words could not describe, which ordinary minds could not even visualize.

In recent years he expressed in mathematical form an idea for which many scientists have been groping—the idea that gravity, electricity, and magnetism are all related. It may be many years before those who follow him will work out the full significance of that simple-looking formula; but again, he has laid the corner stone, and again others will build on it.

But like all great scientists, he was also a philosopher, and his philosophy might have been summed up in his own words when he said: "The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true Science."—P.D.T.

PRESS CUTTINGS

We appeal to all members and friends to send us cuttings of newspaper and magazine reports of saucer sightings, etc. We shall publish as many as we can in the "Record." Even if we have already seen them, we would still appreciate your cuttings as you come across them, as we exchange them with other organizations throughout the world—which means that we need many copies of a good local report. You can hand the cuttings to a Committee member at meetings, or post them to the Headquarters at 22 Northcote Street, Kilburn, South Australia.

This is one concrete way in which everyone can help in the work of the Society, but especially interstate members and friends, since we want saucer news from all over Australia—and the more we get, the happier we shall be.

PLEASE—when you send a cutting mark it with the NAME of the newspaper and the DATE. An easy way to do this is to clip the name—and date-line—from the top of the page and stick it on the back of the cutting.

A.F.S.R.S. AFFAIRS

FIRST MEETING IN RECHABITE HALL.

The March General Meeting of the Society was held for the first time in the Rechabite Hall in Grote Street, on Tuesday, 8th March.

The President, addressing the meeting, took as his subject the question "Are Saucers Man-made?" He quoted the recently re-published report on the Russian jet-propelled "saucer" craft, and the report on the Canadian "saucer" project which was unofficially claimed to be capable of 1,500 m.p.h. These reports, he said, could be taken as substantially correct, having appeared in the world press. But he stressed the performance figures given, and compared these with the reports of performances of true saucers with the speeds of 5,000-18,000 m.p.h. and unlimited ceiling. Thus these could not be man-made.

Referring to the possibility of the saucers being Russian, he said that in this case they would not have been seen at close quarters all over the Western world for the past eight years, because of the risk of their secrets being discovered by the Western Powers.

In a talk on obtaining data on the position and movement of saucers, Mr. Keith Cartwright described methods of taking cross-bearings on aircraft. He explained how to ascertain the position of a saucer by reference to fixed points in the vicinity, from which a compass bearing might be obtained later. The elevation could be determined by using a similar method. He described the use of the A.F.S.R.S. Sighting Report Sheet.

The audience was asked to send to the Society all the newspaper cuttings dealing with saucer sightings which they came across, as these cuttings were needed in large quantities to send to other organizations throughout the world. In exchange, the Society received news of overseas sightings.

APRIL MEETING : THE EVIDENCE OF RADAR

Held on Tuesday, the 5th, the April meeting opened with a talk by the Hon. Assistant Secretary (P. Thomas) on radar and its use in tracking saucers. He briefly outlined the history of radar, and touched on its elementary principles. Using a blackboard to illustrate a description of a typical display, he explained the meaning of the various terms used in describing radar sightings.

He then discussed several of the reports of saucers tracked by radar in the past two years, and quoted Keyhoe's description of the skill and experience of the operators at Washington Airport, who tracked saucers over Washington for several hours in July, 1953. These sightings were attributed to temperature inversions, and the Secretary explained with diagrams what a temperature inversion was, quoting Keyhoe again to show that the inversion over Washington at the time was only one or two degrees, insufficient to cause any significant radar reflection.

He described the sighting from a B-29 bomber over the Gulf of Mexico in some detail, reconstructing the appearance of the radar display from the published description. He also mentioned the formations observed over England in 1954, and the naval sighting near Nowra, N.S.W.

The President announced that Membership Cards were available for those members who had not already received them.

FIRST DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING

The first meeting of the A.F.S.R.S. Discussion Group was held on Wednesday, 20th April. Mr. and Mrs. K. Cartwright kindly made their Hampstead home available for the meeting. There was a fairly small but very keen attendance. The discussion began at 8 p.m. and was closed, reluctantly, at 4 o'clock next morning. The topic chosen for discussion

was "Contacts with Beings from Other Planets," which gave everyone plenty of scope for comment.

It is hoped to have further discussions on the third Friday in each month.

ASTRONOMICAL EVENING

The thanks of the Society go to Mr. A. Cotton, of Kilburn, who made a group of members and friends welcome at his home on Friday, 29th April, for an evening of astronomical observation and discussion. Clouds which rolled up at sunset promised to spoil the chances of observation, but later in the evening these dispersed, and through Mr. Cotton's excellent telescope members of the group were able to study the Moon and Saturn, whose rings were clearly visible. Mr. Colin McCarthy who, like Mr. Cotton, is a member of the Astronomical Society, also brought his portable telescope for the evening.

MAY GENERAL MEETING

This was held in the Rechabite Hall on Tuesday, 3rd May. The President spoke on the subject of the occupants of the saucers, mentioning the types of men and women which people had claimed to have met. He referred in some detail to the various theories which had been put forward to prove that the saucerians were not material but spiritual, and explained the difference between the several classes of spirits. For instance, the spirits which control mediums in seances on one hand, and the angelic spirits on the other. There were those who claimed that all appearances of flying saucers and saucerians were the work of the former class. However, the President pointed out that Adamski's Venusian could not be of this class, since there was no spiritualist medium present, which would have been necessary for such a manifestation.

Mr. K. Cartwright described simple rule-of-thumb methods of estimating the apparent size of an object in the sky, pointing out that such descriptions as "the size of an orange" were meaningless when the object was of an unknown form and distance.

The Secretary discussed some aspects of Mr. Truman Bethurum's claim to have met saucerians from "the previously unknown planet Clarion," which is supposed to be hidden from us because it is behind the Moon. He showed how a planet, to be hidden from us behind the Moon, must be less than 2,000 miles in diameter and no more than about 50,000 miles from the Moon. For a planet to exist under these conditions was, according to known astronomical laws, an impossibility.

OVERSEAS MAGAZINES

There are several saucer magazines from overseas organizations which may be ordered through this Society, and those who would like to order any of these are invited to get in touch with the Hon. Secretary. Among those available are "Flying Saucer News" (English), "Flying Saucers" (New Zealand), "C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter" (U.S.A.), and others. We can recommend these as being well worth the 2s. or 2s. 6d. per copy.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Would all members and friends please note that future meetings of the Society will be held on the first FRIDAY in each month, in the small hall on the first floor of the Rechabite Chambers in Victoria Square (between Franklin and Grote Street). As usual, the meetings will commence at 8 p.m.

PERSONAL SIGHTING REPORTS

The Society always appreciates personal sighting reports, or reports of personal interviews with people who have seen U.F.O.'s. The essential details required as these : Name and address of observer; date, time, and

place of sighting; position in sky; details of movement, appearance, sounds, and apparent size; weather at the time; names and reports of any other witnesses.

The report should preferably be signed by the observer. The Society will treat any report as strictly confidential if requested to do so.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the writer of the best published in each issue, we shall award a year's free subscription to the "Record." Points will be scored for originality, general interest, or a well-expressed idea. We would also appreciate constructive criticism, suggestions, or comments. The winning letter for this quarter is from Mr. C. McCarthy.

The Editor,
"Australian Saucer Record,"

Sir,

Ever since 1947 the almost mystical term "flying saucer" has caused some concern by learned folk and great ridicule by 80 per cent. of the populace. It is a great pity that these latter people would not stop and consider the facts, and instead of petty jealousies, war and strife, turn their minds to the greater beauty of Nature and harmony within oneself and in one's neighbours throughout the whole infinite cosmos.

Perhaps it is significant that we should be passing through this stage of evolution. According to latest theories the whole visible section of the universe is expanding at a fantastic rate, and is also in continuous creation. A galaxy begins to form out of basic matter. On forming, it grows rapidly into a gigantic wheel of hungry raw atomic furnaces which we call stars. At this point in its creation it is in delicate balance and will do one of two things. It will either lose balance and the whole galaxy will form a super nova explosion, destroying itself, or it will continue on its creative path and the suns will form planets, and these planets eventually will form intelligent life. I believe that as this life evolves it will pass through a similar critical period to that of its parents.

The Earth is now going through this period of balance and I am sure if we are to come through victorious we must look to our brothers of Mars and Venus who, having great love for us, are here to help us through this terrible period. These men from our neighbouring planets have seen that it would be impossible at this time to land in large numbers as they would probably cause a complete social and economic collapse. Thus they have done the next best thing by picking out certain Earthmen and giving them the power to break the news of their coming to the peoples of Earth via books, radio, and television.

Mr. Adamski was the first of our people to have direct contact, and his story is well narrated in his and Desmond Leslie's amazing book "Flying Saucers Have Landed." I consider the most important fact of this encounter was the impression of the Venusian's footprints, which held a great spiritual message for mankind. I will not give a translation as it is for the reader to do so himself—"Seek and ye shall find."

If man would only stop for a second the hustle and bustle of life and quietly turn to his inner self, he would find there greater spiritual and moral truths than in all his fantastic weapons of destruction. So let us be wise and lift up our hearts and our minds to those glorious Lords of Creation, our brothers, who are riding in their majestic silent craft, pitying us and waiting for the hour and the moment when we will turn to them and believe, so that they may ride down from the heavenly spaces to guide us to live in perfect harmony and peace with each other and with God.

Yours, etc.,

Kilkenny.

C. J. McCarthy.

LIFE ON MARS

Dr. Slipher, an astronomer at the Lowell Observatory in the U.S.A., returned from South Africa last year after taking 20,000 photographs of Mars through a 27-inch telescope at Bloemfontein.

He reports that on Mars polar caps gleam white, frost areas appear, and clouds and dust-storms swirl. There are at least two new canals. Some areas grow and shrink with the seasons. Judging from broad, intensely-coloured markings, the previous year must have been very good and fertile.

It is doubtful whether Mars has any animal life, continues the report, on account of the lack of oxygen and water. The life there is presumably similar to lichen.

We would add to this interesting report that some scientists think that a form of animal life could exist on Mars, obtaining its oxygen from the soil, either directly or indirectly. Alternatively, a form of life could exist which is not dependent on oxygen for its existence, as animal life is on earth.

Apart from animals, there is no reason why an advanced race of humans could not exist on Mars, growing food in some type of super-glasshouse and living underground or in sealed cities. It is possible that they could even be adapted physically so that they can breathe in the oxygen-deficient atmosphere. The gravity on Mars is so low compared with the pull we are accustomed to on Earth, that a human system might require less oxygen than on Earth for the same degree of exertion.

There is little justification for assuming, as Wells and many others have, that Martians must necessarily be grotesque, non-human monsters. Whether indigenous or not, the Martian would be human like ourselves. Physical differences would be minor ones. For example, the lower gravity would suggest the evolution of a man rather taller than the average on Earth.

The definite existence of "canals" is further evidence that vegetable life must exist on the planet. It is not known yet whether they indicate some form of pipelines to carry water to irrigate the strips of land on each side, or open channels. The former is perhaps the most likely.

An article by Dr. Robert S. Richardson in "This Week," 20th June, 1954, refers to the possibility of obtaining conclusive evidence from photographs as to the origin of the Martian canals. He writes: "Astronomers hope to obtain photographs which will show the markings on Mars so clearly that we can determine whether the canals are natural or artificial in origin. On a planet as smooth as Mars it seems reasonable to suppose that real canals would be built along what are called 'great circle' paths, the name sailors give to the shortest paths between points on the surface of a sphere. If photographs show that the canals always lie along great circle paths, it would be an indication that they are the work of intelligent beings."

It is possible, too, that further information may become available about the two satellites of Mars, Phobos and Deimos. Latest research indicates that Phobos is about 30-40 miles in diameter, and Deimos about half this size. From the surface of Mars, Phobos appears slightly larger than the apparent size of our Moon from the Earth's surface; Deimos, which is much farther from the planet, appears about one-sixth the diameter of our Moon. It has been suggested that these satellites are artificial since their orbits contradict the known laws governing the behaviour of satellites.

Certainly there is a fascinating air of mystery surrounding these tiny bodies, for they were only discovered by telescopic observation less than a century ago, yet they were known to ancient civilizations. The author of Gulliver's Travels, in one of the earliest science-fiction stories ever written, described the moons of Mars with an accuracy that could only be attri-

buted to a fantastic coincidence if it were guesswork. It would seem, therefore, that he had inside information from some ancient record which the rest of the world had forgotten.—P. D. T.

SOME RECENT SIGHTINGS

Queensland Member Sights Sky Object.

Report by A.F.S.R.S. Member, Mrs. S. Anderson: "On the night of 13th March (1955), my young niece was staying with me. About 11.30 I looked outside and saw an orange object, hanging in the sky above the horizon. I called my niece to come quickly; before she did so it disappeared, but returned. It was orange coloured, about 3 times as large as the evening star. The shape was like an ice-cream cone. Now the peculiar and eerie thing was that although the object itself looked very far away, the ring around it seemed to be close to us. We were standing at our back door when we saw it. The house is not very high.

"Inside the ring was a blue-grey sort of vapour, or haze. We felt we could have put our hands out and touched it. When we first saw this object it was still, but then it started to hover up and down and from side to side, then it would spin, sending out greenish-orange glows, and as it spun, a little tail kept shooting out of the small end. We were terribly excited and wished someone else could have seen it. We estimated the time we watched was 10 minutes."

Strange Object Seen in Adelaide.

"Sunday Advertiser" (Adelaide), 17/4/55: Several people phoned the "Sunday Advertiser" tonight and reported a strange object over the city shortly after 7 o'clock. Mr. A. Price, of Croydonville, said he was one of a party of eight who saw "a small red ball move slowly across the sky from the north and disappear in the southern sky." Mr. L. G. McKinley, of Golflands, a former member of the R.A.A.F., said the object was not a plane. It took seven or eight minutes to pass over.

Sighting in Honduras.

"Sun" (Melbourne), 17/12/54: The Honduras Air Force reports that a large, luminous object flew over Tegucigalpa at 25,000 feet this morning. (No further details are available).

South African Meteorologists's Report.

"Natal Mercury" (Durban), 28/1/55: "On December 7th, 1954," states Mr. R. H. Kleyweg, officer-in-charge at the Meteorological Station, Upington, Cape Province, "I released a balloon for upper wind observation. I was shielding my eyes from the sun when I saw an object to the east of the sun moving slowly from the west. I thought this was my balloon and picked it up in the theodolite. As there was some cloud about I had released a red balloon, but this object was white not red; it was like a half-circle with the sun reflecting off the sloping top. I followed this object for about three minutes not knowing what to make of it. It was not moving at all fast and was easy to follow. I could see it through cloud owing to the reflection of the sun from it. My stop watch was still going and I decided to take theodolite observations. In the first reading the angles were 43.7 azimuth from true north and the elevation 56.7. I had no sooner written this down than the object began to move at greater speed. I kept it in sight for another full minute and took another reading. This was 38 degrees from north and the elevation was also 38 degrees. I scribbled the last two readings down on the pad but the object was moving so fast that I could not find it again in the theodolite when I looked up."

"I have followed thousands of meteorological balloons. This object was no balloon. It did not look or behave like a balloon. The angular observa-

tions give a movement of the object of 30 degrees true (i.e., from 210 degrees) in direction, and a speed of 75 m.p.h. for each 10,000 feet of its height above ground."

Meteor Pilot Sees Saucers.

"Illustrated" (London), 12/2/54: Flight/Lieut. J. R. Salandin of 604 Fighter Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, said he saw, while flying a Meteor fighter over England in Oct., 1954, two objects moving at high speeds and leaving no vapour trails. Both were shining, one silver and the other gold. As he was craning his neck in an attempt to follow the flight of the objects, a third one approached him from another direction. This one came to within only a few hundred yards of his windscreen, which it more than filled. It was solid and metallic. It was dome-shaped, with a flange and another dome underneath it.

Saucer Close-up in Somerset.

"The Western Gazette" (Somerset, England): Nigel Frapple, aged 18, was cycling home in the evening of 27th May, 1954. Near the Redlynch crossroads (about two miles from Bruton, Somerset), he said, the air became illuminated with an orange light. Travelling along slowly, at a height he estimated at 75 feet, was what he first thought must be a balloon on fire. He then saw it was an object, which he estimated to be about 30 to 40 feet across, moving along more or less in front of him. This object hovered over a field. Dismounting from his bicycle, he got to within about 50 yards of it and crouching behind a hedge, had a good view. The object, which made no sound, had a cockpit in its centre with a sort of glass panel, and this was surmounted by a small revolving light. At one end was another orange light, which, for want of a better description, he described as a tall light. He endeavoured to get a closer look and the object began to move away slowly in a northern direction, and then vanished upwards at a terrific speed, still making no sound except for a whooshing noise.

Adelaide Man's Close View of Saucer.

Report to A.F.S.R.S. by Observer: At 7.45 a.m. on 22/4/55 the observer was driving towards Melbourne with two companions, a few miles from Tintinara, in the outback of S.E. South Australia. Glancing to his right, he saw an object in the sky, about 5 degrees above the horizon, an estimated quarter mile away. He stopped and got out to watch the object, which came towards him, losing height, and crossed the road about 100 yards behind the car. At this point it was at an altitude of about 35 degrees and the observer estimated its diameter to be about 30 feet. After passing behind the car, at an estimated speed of 15 m.p.h., it turned and began to move towards the East, roughly parallel to the road. When it was about 500 yards away the observer started the car and began to follow it. It accelerated considerably; he reached 70 m.p.h. and followed it for 15-20 miles, but was unable to catch up with it. At about 8.05 a.m. he stopped to check one of the tyres, and when he continued the object was almost out of sight. When last seen it was at an altitude of about 45 degrees and climbing rapidly.

He had a good view of it when it was close to the car, and he described it as a silvery sphere, like aluminium, about 10 feet in diameter, surrounded by a flat flange about 30 feet in overall diameter. This flange was a bright, deep red. The object moved smoothly and silently, with the flange horizontal; it did not tilt or bank. He saw no markings, port-holes or other features. The outline was clear and sharp, and the object appeared real and solid. The sun was shining at the beginning of the sighting, but clouds gathered towards the end. The other two people in the car also saw the saucer, but were not available for interview at the time of going to press.

SAUCERS IN "PRACTICAL MECHANICS"

The English magazine "Practical Mechanics," published monthly by Newnes Ltd., has taken a great interest in the subject of saucers over the past year or so. During 1954 it has reviewed, at considerable length, both "Flying Saucers have Landed" and "Flying Saucer from Mars," reproducing photographs from these books and giving a keen and intelligent criticism of their texts. This criticism is particularly valuable as it comes from a source which has no particular bias either way, and is extremely well-informed in all aspects of interplanetary flight, astronomy, physics, and allied subjects, as well as being in a good position to assess a book from the journalistic angle.

The magazine gives a fair review of "Flying Saucers have Landed," but leaves a more or less open verdict as to the authenticity of Adamski's story. This follows the line of most authorities, who have so far been unable to point to any serious flaws in his story. Perhaps the most violent critics of the book, several of whom wrote to "Practical Mechanics" to express their opinions, were those who asserted that Adamski's saucer was an old-fashioned type of street lamp photographed at appropriate angles. However, as far as we know, no one has been able to produce a specimen of such a lamp for comparison.

In the December, 1954, issue there is a review of "Flying Saucer from Mars," which will no doubt provoke another spate of scientific criticism from readers. This review is frankly sceptical, pointing out several weaknesses in the story, such as the blurred and unconvincing photographs.

The reviewer suggests that Allingham should have considered the Martian "intruder" as an alien invader, and taken steps either to arrest him or to inform the police. We cannot help wondering however, what the visitor, or his companions, would have been doing in the meantime. If they did come from Mars, it is most unlikely that they would meekly allow themselves to be arrested by a burly Scottish constable on a charge of entering the country without a passport (or alternatively of flying an aircraft without a Certificate of Airworthiness).

The Editor, Mr. F. J. Camm, has dealt with the subject of saucers in several open-minded editorials. He does not accept a dogmatic assertion that the phenomena do not exist, but he is unwilling to accept any and every sensational story without some tangible or scientific evidence. To quote a sentence from a recent editorial: "Investigation on an official and world-wide basis is now in progress, and we may hope that as a result the mystery of these frequently reported sightings of space craft will be solved, if only partly." (The A.F.S.R.S. expects something more satisfactory than a partial solution!)

A letter to the Editor from a Mr. K. E. Nicholls puts forward an interesting idea. He suggests that if Adamski could communicate with a space visitor by telepathy, then "someone should surely have been able to discuss their problems with the ants on a thought transference plane. No one has done so yet, and I fail to see that we have any right to suppose we can communicate with any other races alien to Man"

(However, we could point out that Adamski claimed that his visitor was not "alien to Man," but a man like ourselves. We therefore know of no reason why telepathic communication should not be possible between two such parties.)

Another editorial includes a report of a sighting in 1942. It reads: "Since publication of various articles on the subject in this journal I have received many letters from reliable witnesses who have seen weird objects. One of my contributors, Mr. C. J. Williamson, of Scalloway, Shetland Is., sends me a report of what he and his wife observed in the sky over Scalloway in the spring of 1942: 'We were up on the hill overlooking sea level, when a bright object seemed to drop earthwards towards the

houses of the town. When it appeared inevitable that it would strike earth it swerved and, mark, without a pause, went off at right angles to its path of descent. It vanished out over the sea in a matter of a few seconds. In fact, the whole apparition held the view for only a matter of perhaps 4 or 5 seconds.

"My first impression was that I was observing the descent of a meteorite in daylight, but the complete right angle turn at the end rules such a phenomenon out. My wife's impressions were similar to my own. The strange object was very bright and reflected the brilliant sunshine with the same degree of reflectivity as one gets from sunshine on the chromium fittings of a motor car. As you will understand, it was entirely impossible to attribute a shape to the object owing to this dazzle which made it just a blob of flashing brilliancy.."

AIR FORCE DENIES SAUCERS ARE THEIRS

In a statement to Len H. Stringfield, Director of Civilian Research, Interplanetary Flying Objects (U.S.A.), dated 16th Feb., 1955, the United States Defence Dept. officially denied that the Air Force had any saucer-like craft. Part of the statement, published in the March "C.R.I.F.O. Newsletter," reads:

" . . . We have been experimenting with new type aircraft and missiles for a long time, and possibly some of them have been reported as unidentified flying objects. However, the number of such sightings would be negligible. We have nothing which spins through the air like a disc, pulsates, glows, dematerialises, changes colour, goes from a mid-air standstill to a supersonic speed, or that can turn at square angles in full flight, as some sighters report.

(Signed) ROBERT C. WHITE, Captain, U.S.A.F."

PRESS DIGEST

"*Practical Mechanics*" (London), Jan., 1955: The Canadian Minister of Defence recently stated that Canada worked for 12 months on a flying saucer project. They took it beyond the drawing-board stage, but although nearly £34,000,000 was spent on development and experimental work it never left the ground and it never reached a stage ready for a test flight. "He doubts whether any country in the world has a flying saucer," writes the Editor, "and so do I." The Canadian saucer was oval-shaped.

"*News Chronicle*" (London), 17/1/55: West Germany's first recruiting film is a flying saucer view of the world. In a Bonn cinema today young Germans sat unmoved as the film showed them Martians surveying the world and commenting: "We also had an epoch of wars and conflict on Mars long ago. We called it the age of nonsense." When their electronic telescope reviewed Bonn, the Martians saw Chancellor Adenauer speaking "for peace and freedom, a strong Europe and a reunited Germany." The Martians commented: "Now, there is a man who comes closer to our way of thinking. He is the furthest advanced of them all. Not all his world comrades can follow his supra-national ideas. What a pity he is not one of us." The Martians then showed how the new German soldiers would be treated. A burly, but friendly-faced, sergeant was shown greeting each recruit with a warm smile and handshake.

"*News Chronicle*" (London), 17/1/55: A news item headed "Earthman Fined" reads: "Marcel Faisant saw two glowing discs, thought they were flying saucers, and fired at them with his shotgun. Magistrates at Laon, Northern France, fined him £15 for smashing a tractor's headlights and wounding two cows."

"*Practical Mechanics*" (London), Feb., 1955: Here is an excerpt from an article on Flying Saucers: "Meteors or meteorites do not possess return tickets, nor are they allowed to change their direction, once they are grasped by the gravitational force of our planet. They burn out or crash—and they do so quickly. They do not play hide and seek around mountain tops, nor reverse their direction of travel alongside flying airliners. A stationary 'mother' meteorite with a flock of mini-meteorites frisking about her and signalling to each other, is unknown to the science of astronomy."

"*Mail*" (Adelaide), 2/4/55: A jet aircraft technician named Daniel Fry said he had met a spaceship about 30 feet in diameter while he was strolling round the White Sands proving ground. Fry accepted an invitation to have a joyride, and made the return trip to New York in 30 minutes.

"*Sunday Advertiser*" (Adelaide), 17/4/55: Excerpts from an article headed "Have spacemen visited us?" reads: "Once we used to think of visitors from Mars as being huge Wellsian monsters that could make a mess of life on Earth in no time. This view seems to be changing. Mysterious space-ship landings, invisible walls, electro-magnetic force fields, small but friendly visitors are sworn to by members of the Air Force in America, some members of the British Astronomical Association, people in France, Italy, South America, in fact all over the world."

THE A.F.S.R.S. LIBRARY

The Society's library is available to all members. The books may be borrowed for a period of 14 days at a charge of 1/- per book. Country members may borrow books by post, but in this case postage must be added to the charge. Here is a list of books currently available:

Flying Saucers are Real	(Keyhoe)
Behind the Flying Saucers	(Scully)
The Riddle of the Flying Saucers	(Heard)
Flying Saucers have Landed	(Leslie & Adamski)
Flying Saucers from Outer Space	(Keyhoe)
Flying Saucer from Mars	(Allingham)
Space, Gravity, and the Flying Saucers	(Cramp)
God's Kingdom Come	(Griffiths)
Venus Speaks	
Mystery of Other Worlds	(Fawcett)
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